THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A Statement showing the status (as on 31.3.2000) of the existing installed power generation capacity in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 128]

(b) A Statement showing the average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of power plants in each State for 1999-2000 is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 128]

(c) The likely capacity addition in respect of pending projects including schemes approved/under construction State-wise, is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 128] The estimated requirement of electricity in each State for 2000-2001 is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 128]

(d) The per capita availability of power, State-wise for 1999-2000 (provisional) is given in Annexures. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 128]

Import of Textiles from Europe

†*728. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Economic Times' dated the 18th April, 2000 under the caption "Europe sees great market for clothes in India";

(b) whether it is a fact that after according relaxation for importing textiles into the country, it is expected that large quantity of textiles will be imported into the country from Europe;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to protect the indigenous textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After the announcement of new Exim Policy on 31.3.2000, import of certain textile items would be possible without any restrictions.

In the atmosphere of liberalisation, the imports are governed by market forces subject to export-import policy in force from time to time. The quantum of textile imports from EU Member States would depend upon international

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

market conditions and other factors like quality, prices, accessibility, variety etc. of textile items and consumer preference.

(d) Government is monitoring the imports and would strive to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. To protect local industry from the injurious effects of imports, action under anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures etc. of WTO could be taken if necessary.

The Government have been taking several steps from time to time to protect and strengthen the textile industry and to make it internationally competitive. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(2) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(3) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

(4) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.

(5) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(6) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(7) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(8) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policies announced for the period 2000-2004 to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.